



# BY-DISTRICT ELECTIONS

(ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH NATIONAL DEMOGRAPHICS  
CORPORATION FOR DISTRICTING SERVICES)

## CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Jovan D. Grogan, City Manager

June 8, 2021



# Objective

1. Follow-up on the City Council's intent to transition to district elections for the November 2022 City Council elections
2. Obtain approval to initiate demographic analysis, public outreach, production of preliminary district maps and develop options for the City Council to consider
3. Outline scope of work and schedule for the districting process

## **Recommended Action**

Receive Report and Provide Direction Regarding the Intention to Transition to a By-District Method of City Elections; Consider Adopting a Resolution Appropriating \$46,000 from General Fund Balance and Authorizing the City Manager to Enter Into a Contract with National Demographics Corporation for Districting Services



# Presentation Agenda

- I. Background
- II. Proposed Services from National Demographics Corporation (NDC)
  - Summary Schedule
- III. By-District Elections and Mayoral Election Structure
- IV. Next Steps



# Background



# Background

## ❖ March 10, 2020

- City Council received staff report regarding options to mitigate City exposure to potential California Voting Rights Act (CVRA) claim and attorney's fees
- City Council received a detailed presentation from Doug Johnson, President of the National Demographics Corporation (NDC), on transitioning to a by-district method for City elections and the California Voting Rights Act
- City Council discussed mitigating risk and adopted Resolution of Intention to transition in either 2020 or 2022, thus obtaining safe harbor
  - City Council adopted Resolution expresses the Council's *"intent to transition from an at-large election system to a by-district election system for the City Councilmembers...commencing in November 2020 or November 2022."*
- City Council requested that staff bring the item back to the next meeting (3/24/20) for further discussion



# Background

## ❖ March 24, 2020

- City Council discussed Pros and Cons of transitioning to by-district elections in 2020 vs. 2022
  - ❑ Unknowns related to community engagement and how remote participation would occur due to COVID-19, which had just begun
  - ❑ Delaying until 2022 would allow thorough discussion of possible change to a Charter City and alternative voting mechanisms in conjunction with district elections
- City Council passed a motion to postpone demographic analysis and community meeting on by-district elections in calendar year 2020 and instead *“discuss and decide if we are going to go to district elections in 2022 after community outreach and public input”*



# Proposed Services from NDC



# Proposed Services from NDC

- ❖ Support for Advisory or Independent Districting Commission (optional)
- ❖ Demographic Analysis
- ❖ GIS Mapping
- ❖ Presentations at Public Hearings and Forums
- ❖ Outreach Assistance
- ❖ Project Website
- ❖ Online Mapping Tools for Council and the Public





# Public Meeting Requirements

- ❖ Per state law, the procedure for making the transition requires:
  - Two (2) public hearings prior to any maps being drawn to discuss the composition of districts.
  - Two (2) public hearings after maps have been drawn, during which the public can provide input regarding the content of the draft maps and proposed sequencing of elections.
  - Final public hearing to introduce an ordinance establishing by-district elections.
    - Adoption of the ordinance could be scheduled at the next City Council meeting



# Project Timeline

Month	Task
<b>June – July 2021</b>	Project planning and decisions on public mapping tools, whether to use a commission, and other project options. Begin project communications and outreach.
<b>July 2021 – September 2021</b>	Mapping tools prepared with preliminary population data; initial pre-draft-map hearing(s) held.
<b>October 2021 – January 2022</b>	Census data received and processed; draft maps prepared, considered, and revised (in hearings and public workshops).
<b>January 2022 – April 2022</b>	Final plan revisions made and final City Council action on the plan, followed by implementation.



# By-District Elections and Mayoral Election Structure



# Mayoral Electoral Process

## ❖ San Bruno's Mayoral Election Structure

- Directly elected and at-large
  - Directly elected = elected separately from other seats on the City Council
  - At-large = No residency restriction within the City
- Adopted by voters in 1977

## ❖ With By-District Elections...

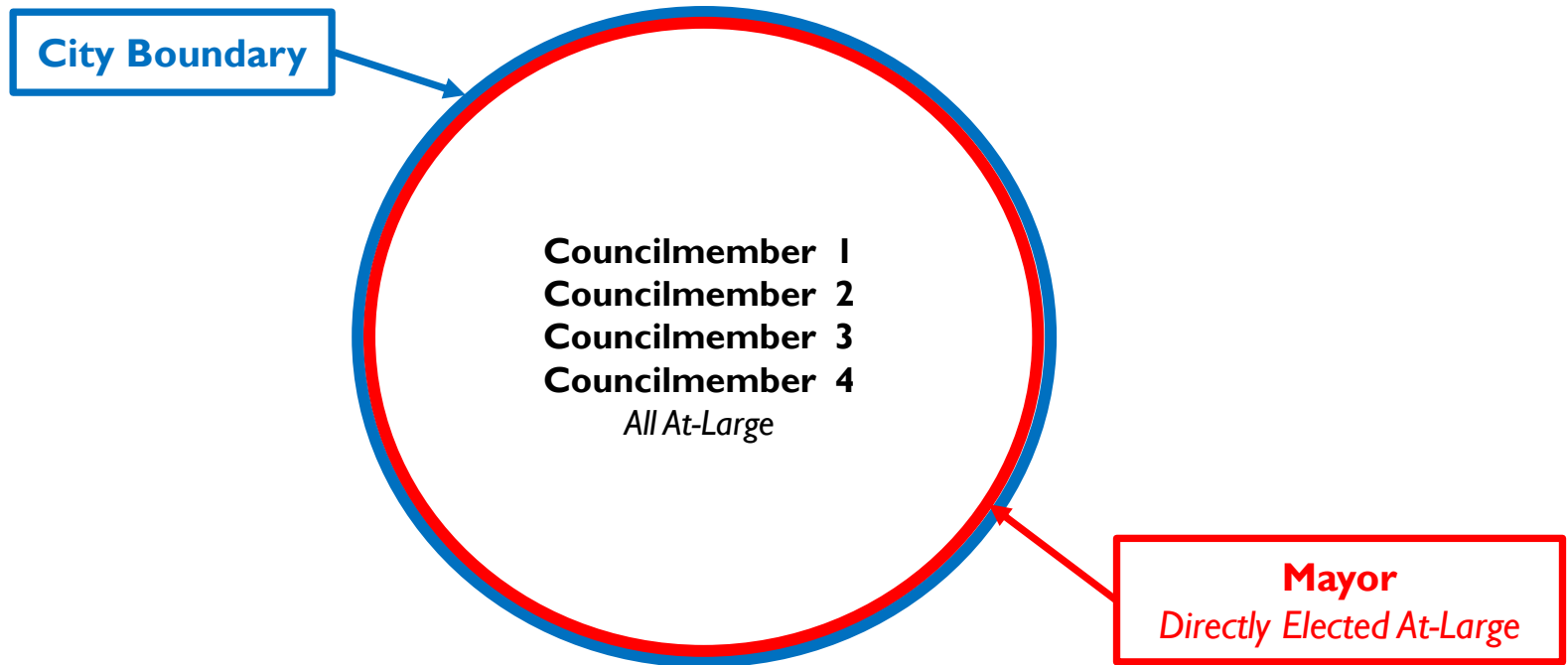
- City may retain current electoral process for the Mayor  
or
- City may change the electoral process for the Mayor (requires voter approval)



# Current City Council Electoral Process

## Current City Council Electoral Process

*5-person City Council with a directly elected at-large Mayor and 4 at-large Councilmembers*

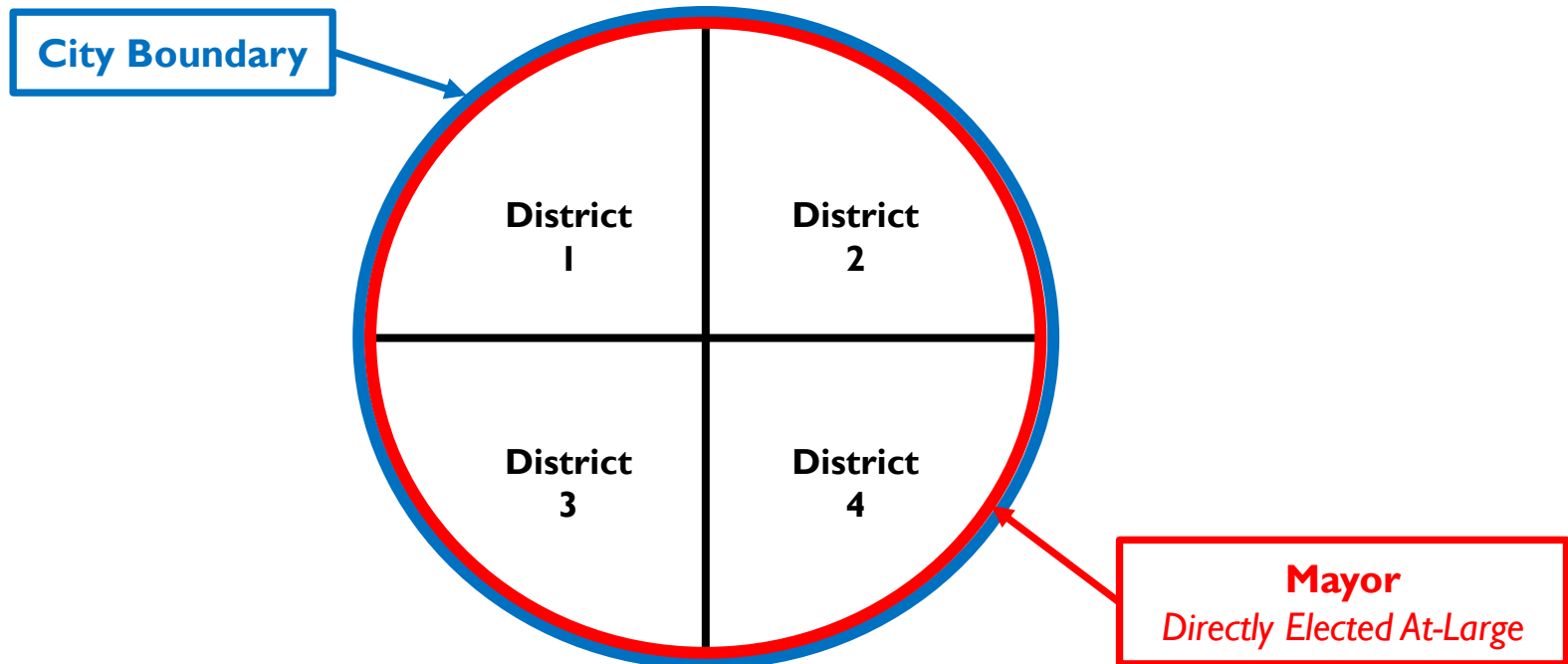




# By-District Electoral Process that Retains Directly Elected At-Large Mayor

## By-District Electoral Process Retaining Directly Elected At-Large Mayor

*5-person City Council with a directly elected at-large Mayor and 4 Councilmembers serving distinct districts*

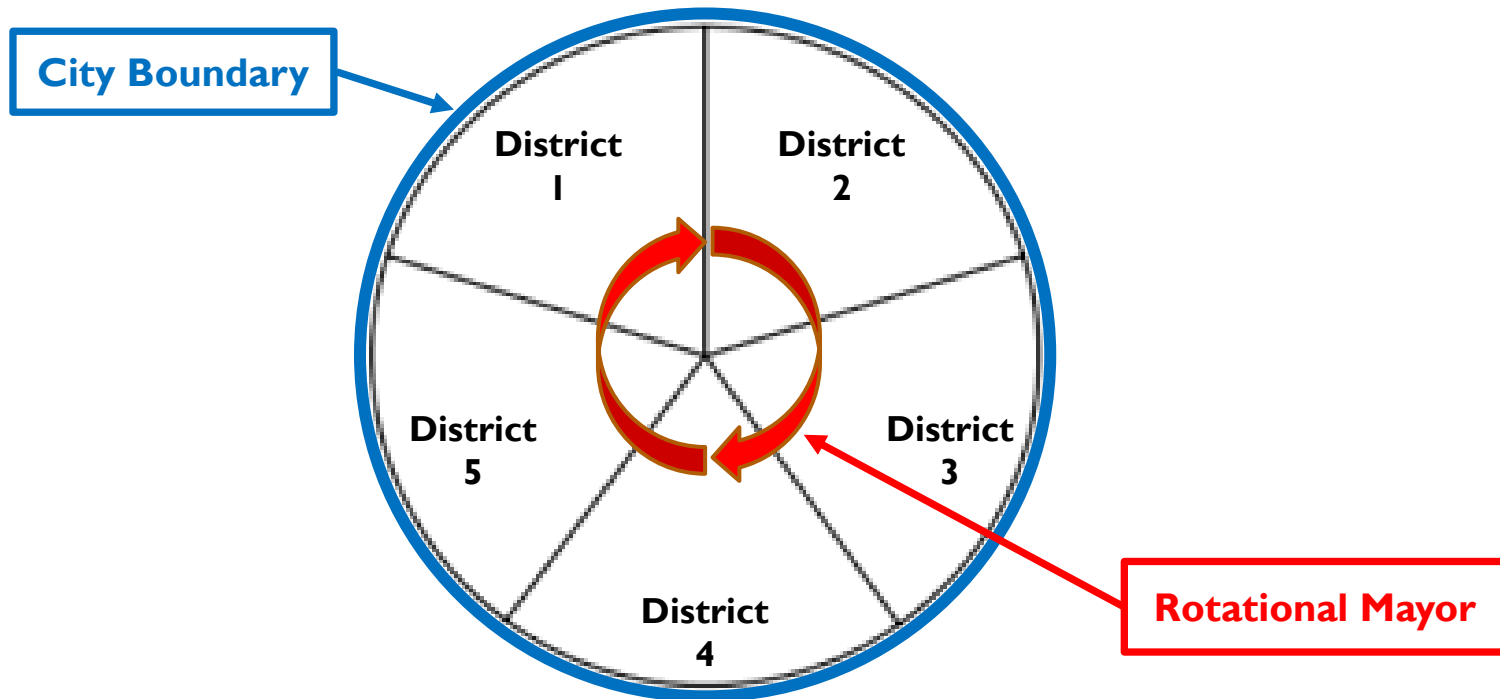


# By-District Process with Rotating Mayor (no at-large district)



## **By-District Process with Rotating Mayor (no at-large district)**

*5-person City Council with 5 Councilmembers serving distinct districts without an at-large district and a rotational Mayor selection process*

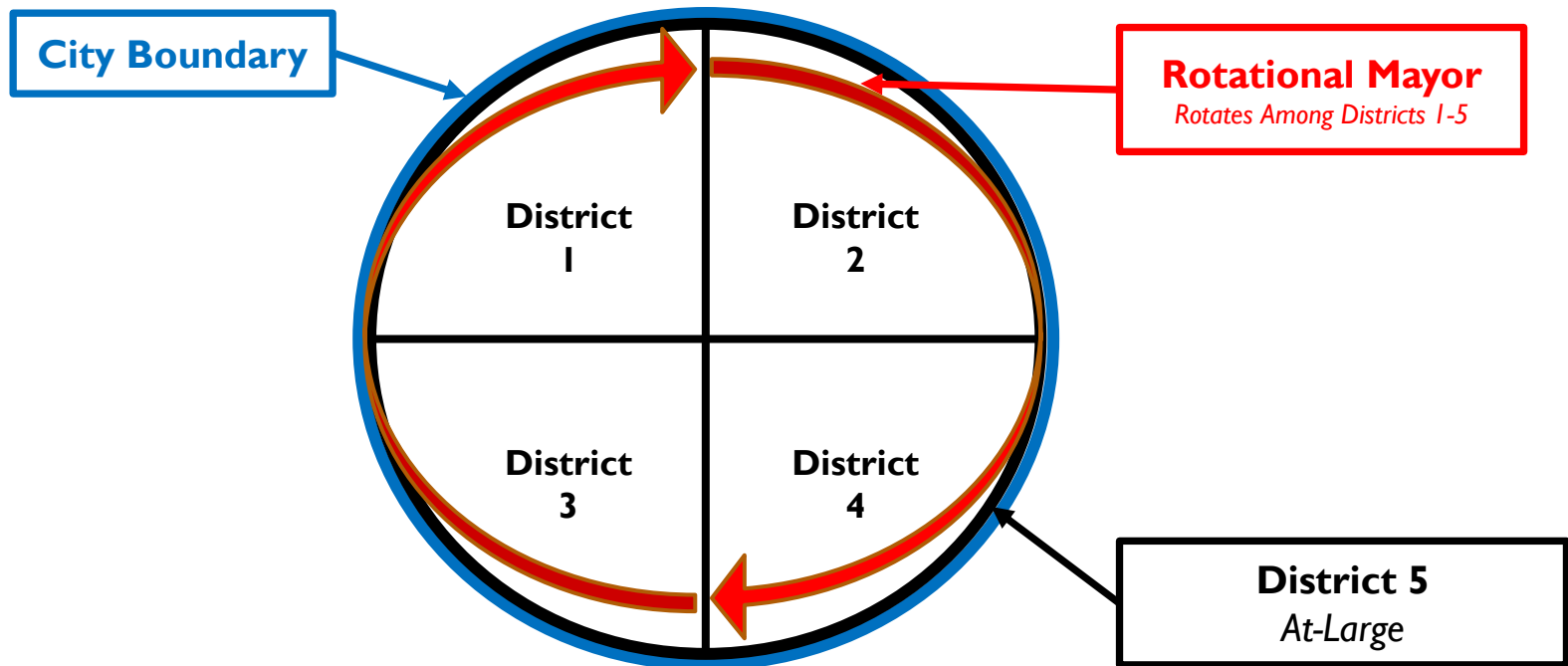


# By-District Process with Rotating Mayor (w/ an at-large district)



## **By-District Process with Rotating Mayor (with an at-large district)**

*5-person City Council with 5 Councilmembers serving distinct districts with an at-large district and a rotational Mayor selection process*







# District Elections & Mayoral Election Structure

- ❖ Summary Conclusions w/ Respect to Mayoral Election Process
  - 1) City may retain current electoral process for the Mayor
  - 2) City may change the electoral process for the Mayor (requires voter approval)
  - 3) Several by-district election structures to choose from (some can be implemented by Council, whereas others require voter approval)
  - 4) Should the City opt to adjust its Mayoral selection process, doing so before transiting to by-district elections is advisable
  - 5) No direction is required from the City Council on the Mayoral selection process under a by-district election process at this point



# Next Steps



# Next Steps

- ❖ Receive City Council Input and Direction at tonight's Meeting
- ❖ Staff to Enter into Contract with NDC
- ❖ Obtain Additional Services for Meeting Facilitation Services for Public Outreach and Community Engagement to Support the Districting Process (Funding Included in the Proposed FY 21-22 Budget)
- ❖ Initiate Districting Process: Staff/Consultant Kickoff Meeting, Development of Detailed Project Schedule, Launch Community Engagement



Receive Report and Provide Direction Regarding the Intention to Transition to a By-District Method of City Elections; Consider Adopting a Resolution Appropriating \$46,000 From General Fund Balance and Authorizing the City Manager to Enter Into a Contract with National Demographics Corporation for Districting Services

# Questions and Input

